

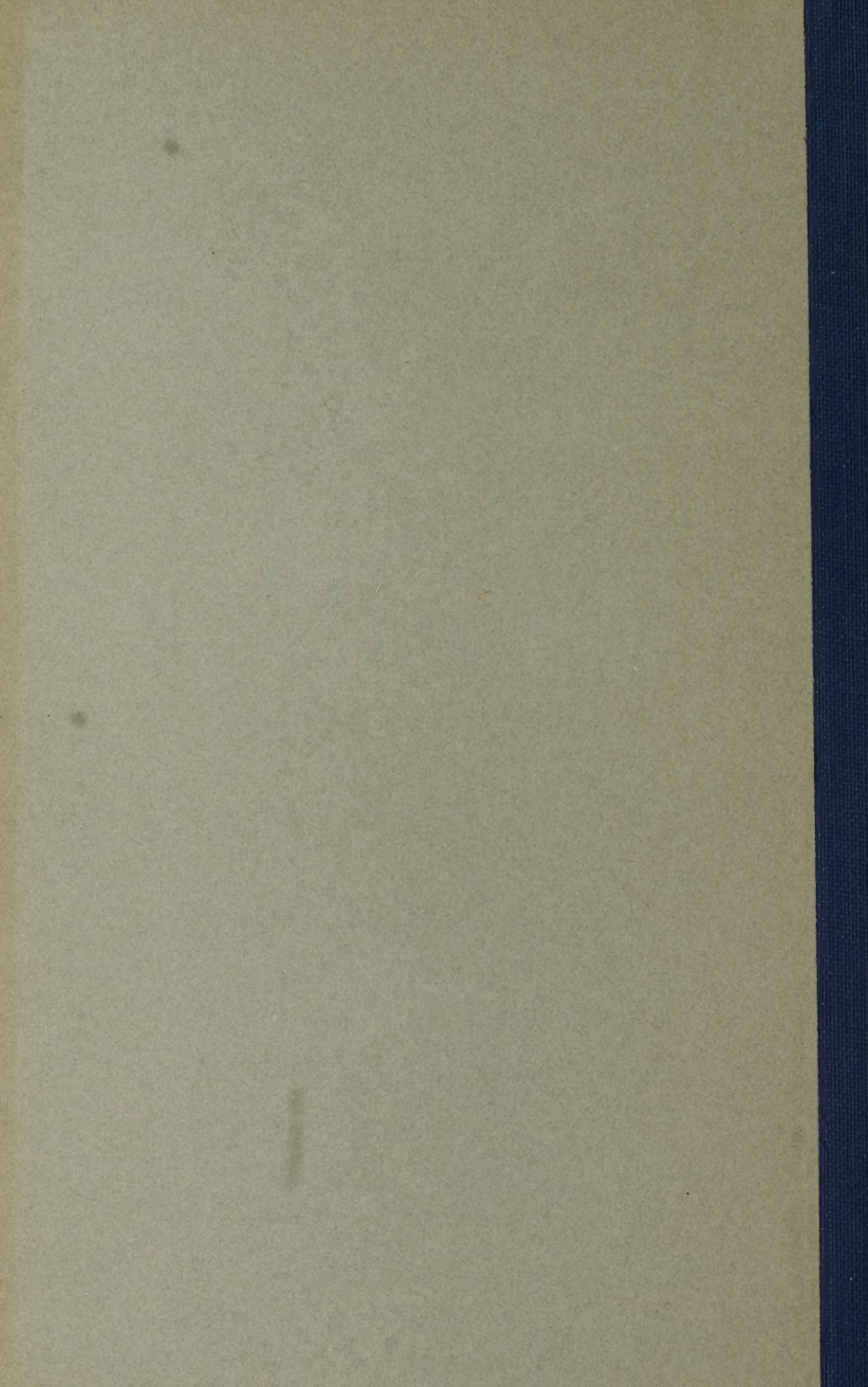
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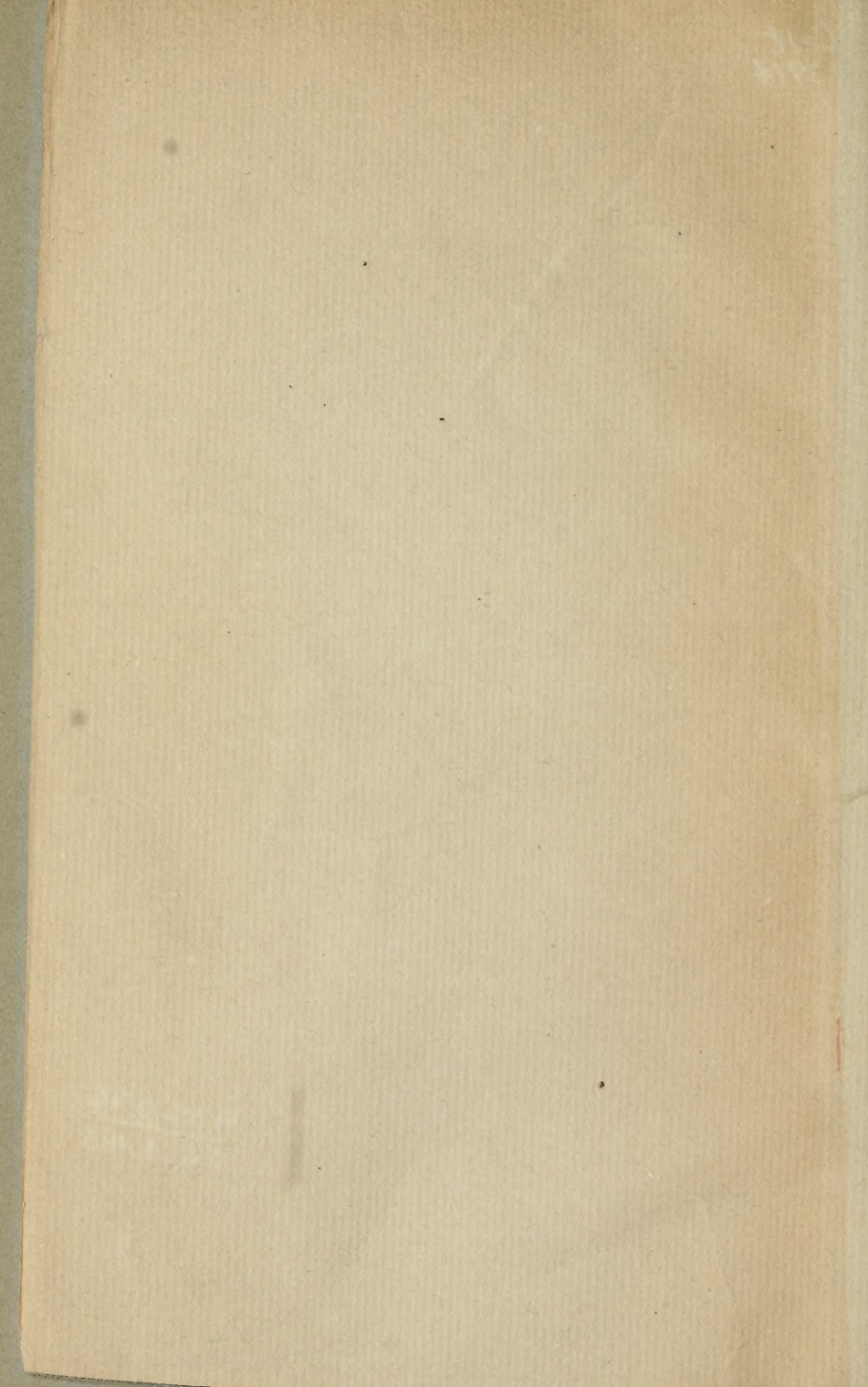
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THE CEILIDH BOOKS.  
LEABHRAICHEAN NAN CEILIDH  
AIREAMH 43

# ACHD AN FHEARAINN

LE

AONGHAS MAC EANRUIG



A' PHRIS, TRI SGILLINNEAN. 3d.

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26.1.45

ALASDAIR MAC LABHRUINN AGUS A MHIK,  
360-2 SRAID EARRAGHAIDHEAL,  
GLASCHO.







## Guth Na Bliadhna.

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LEABHAR IX.]

AN T-EARRACH, 1912.

[AIREAMH 2.]

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### ACHD AN FHEARAINN.

**C**HEIBH faighidin furtachd. Thàinig m'a dheireadh an t-Achd ris an robh sinn a' feitheamh cho fada. An déigh dàil chóig-bliadhna-fichead, chunnaic Pàrlamaid Shasuinn freagarrach leasachadh beag a dheanamh air laghanna an fhearainn an Albainn. Nam bu bheo bu mhithich! Bha sinn an déigh gach dùil is dòchas a thoirt a suas. *Chall* Chan eil sinn ag ràdh gu'm bheil an t-Achd ùr cho fialuidh no cho toirbheartach sa bu chòir dha a bhi. Tha fàilingean ann, agus fàilingean móra; ach is feàrr e na a bhi falamh. An uair a chuimhnicheas sinn gur ann o làimh an t-Sasunnaich a thàinig e, cha chulaidh-ioghnaidh idir e a bhi cho fad air ais; ach

is culaidh-ioghnaidh e a bhi cho fad air aghaidh. Cha d'rinn an Sasunnach còir riamh droch chleachdadh dhuinn le anabarr caoimhneis.

Is ann o na h-Adhartaich a fhuair sinn an t-Achd ùr. An d' thug iad dhuinn na gheall iad? An d' thug iad dhuinn na gheall Sir E. Caimbeul-Bannerman aig Baile-an-Iarla no Mr. Tomas Seathach aig Inbhirnis? Cha d' thug, no dad coltach ris na geallaidhean sin. Ma's iad na h-Adhartaich a dheilbh agus a thug seachad an t-Achd, tha comharradh an t-Sasunnaich air gach duilleig dheth. Is coma dhuinne co-dhiùbh is iad Adhartaich no Athaisich a bhios a' deanamh laghanna às ar leth, oir chan eil annta dhuinn ach sè is leth-dusan. Tha sinn air fàs seachd uairean sgèth dhiubh le chéile. Tha sinn air fàs sgèth de bhi ceangailte ri rothan a' charbaid Shasunnaich. Tha sinn ceangailte riu, a nis, fada gu leoir, agus, chan eil sinn dol a bhi na's fhaide riar-aichte leis an t-suidheachadh dhìblidh sin. Aig a' cheart àm, gabhaidh sinn nì math sam bith a gheibh sinn, aon chuid o Adhartaich no o Athaisich. Gus am faigh sinne cothrom gu ar cùisean féin a riaghladh an Albainn, is coma dhuinn có a bhios a deilbh Achdan air ar son. Ged a bhios na laghanna ùra fo chruth is fo ainm na h-Alba, gidheadh tha iad de Shasunn Sasunnach, agus fada bho nòs is fo ghnè na h-Alba. Gabhaidh sinn an t-Achd ùr aig a luach, agus measaidh sinn e mar earlais air nithean is fheàrr a thaobh laghanna an fhearainn cho luath is a gheibh sinn cead agus còir air ar dùthaich féin a riaghladh. Theagamh nach eil an t-àm sin cho fad às sa shaoilear.

A chum leasachaidh a dheanamh air laghanna an



fhearainn an Albainn, is e a' cheud cheum a tha do-sheachnaidh feumail an talamh a bhi air a bhriseadh a sìos air chor is nach bi tuillidh sa chòir an làmhan aon neach am feadh sa tha móran sluaigh buileach fala-mh. Gus am faighear an leasachadh so, tha ceist an fhearainn ionnas mar nach rachadh beantainn riamh rithe.

Feoraicheamaid, mata, am bheil an t-Achd ùr a' fosgladh an fhearainn do'n t-sluagh? An e Achd math a th'ann? C'àit am bheil e fann agus fàilneach? An dean e atharrachadh comharraichte air suidheachadh agus cor na h-Alba? An fhiach e gach strìth agus saothair a chaidh a chaitheamh ris o chionn móran bhliadhnachan?

Ann a bhi freagradh na ceud cheist, bheir sinn fainear gu'n d' thàinig an t-Achd ùr an cleachdadh air a' cheud latha de'n Ghiblein, 1912. Tha e a' gabhail a staigh, chan i mhàin a' Ghàidhealtachd ach Albainn gu léir, agus tha e beantainn ris gach gabhaltas nach eil os ceann £50 de mhàl. Gabhaidh e gnothaich ri gabhaltais a tha os ceann £50 de mhàl mur eil am meudachd os ceann 50 acair. An Eilean Leodhais, chan eil neach sam bith a' tighinn a staigh fo'n Achd a tha pàigheadh os ceann £30 de mhàl. Tha'n sluagh cho pailt agus am fearann cho gann san eilean sin is gu'm facas iomchuidh na gabhaltais a dheanamh cho beag sa dh' fhaoidte. Feumaidh an tuathanach a thaigh agus a dhachaidh a bhi aige air a ghabhaltas no mar dhà mhìle dha. Feumaidh e am fearann oibreachadh le a shaothair féin no le saothair a theaghlach, ach bidh e ceadaichte dha, ma thogras e, luchd-tuasdail a ghleidheadh.

Tha'n t-Achd a' cur air bonn dà Chùirt ùr—Cùirt Albannach an Fhearainn agus Bòrd an Tuathanachais. Tha Cùirt an Fhearainn air a' deanamh a suas de chóignear bhall, agus feumaidh aon dhiubh a bhi comasach air Gàidhlig a labhairt. Chan eil aig Bòrd an Tuathanachais ach triuir bhall, agus bidh aon dhiubh air a shònruachadh gu amharc an déigh nan gabhaltasan beaga. Is ann air-san a thuiteas a' chuid is truime de'n obair comh-cheangailte ri cruthachadh ghabhaltasan ùra, agus meudachadh seann fheadhainn. Tha Cùirt nan Croitearan agus Bòrd nan Cearnachan Dòmhaile a' dol am mach á bith, agus bidh na dleasnais a b' àbhaist dhaibh-san a choimhlionadh air an toirt a suas a nis leis na Cùirtean ùra. Air son an t-Achd oibreachadh am mach agus a chuir gu buil, gheibhear £200,000 gach bliadhna á sporan na Stàide. Bidh an t-ionmhas so a' sìor fhàs o àm gu àm, mar a bhios na h-iasaid a bheirear do na tuathanaich bheaga air am pàigheadh air an ais. Bu chòir do'n t-suim so feum math a dheanamh, ma bhios i air a làimhseachadh gu cothromach agus gu glic. Tha dòchas gu'm bi i air a riarachadh agus air a riaghladh na's fheàrr na iomadh airgead eile bh' air a sgapadh leis an Stàid air feadh na Gàidhealtachd.

Bidh e mar fhiachaibh air Bòrd an Tuathanachais fiosrachadh a dheanamh o àm gu àm a dh' fheuchainn am bheil miadh no déigh air gabhaltais bheaga an ceàrn sam bith. Ma gheibhear am mach gu'm bheil, théid am bòrd an ceann-còrdaidh ri uachdarain an fhearainn chum is gu'n téid seol a dheanamh air gabhaltais a dheilbh. Ma bhios e ao-comasach



còrdadh a dheanamh ris na h-uachdaran, bidh cumhachd aig Cùirt an Fhearainn reachd a chur am mach chum gabhaltasan ùra a chruthachadh, agus bidh na gabhaltasan so air an suidheachadh air màil chothromach agus air cùmhnantan a bhios air an tarruing am mach leis a' Chùirt. Chan fhaodar tuathanachas a bhriseadh a tha na's lugha am meudachd na 150 acair, is e sin ri ràdh, ma ghabhas fearann sam bith eile faighinn anns a' choimhearsnachd. Chan eil e ceadaichte gnothach a ghabhail ri fearann a th' aig tuathanach air aonta a bha ruith aig a' Bhealltainn, 1906. Bidh pàigheadh air a thoirt do uachdaran no do thuathanaich air son call sam bith a dh' fhuilingeas iad an lorg am fearainn a bhi air a bhriseadh. Tha comas aig a' Bhòrd cuideachadh airgid a thoirt seachad, aon chuid le iasad no le saor thìodhlac air son togail thaighean no challaidean, air son amair-uisge dheanamh, air son uisge thoirt gu àiteachan sam bheil e gann, agus air son ghnathaichean eile de'n t-seorsa sin. Is ann mar iasad agus chan ann mar shaor-thìodhlac a dh' fhaodar airgead a thoirt seachad air son togail thaighean-còmhnuidh no aitreamhan eile.

Tha cumhachd aig Cùirt an Fhearainn tuillidh gruinnd a thoirt do thuathanaich bheaga aig am bheil gabhaltais cheana—is e sin ri ràdh, faodaidh iad na gabhaltais a th'ann a mheudachadh. Fo sheann Achd nan Croitearan, dh' fheumadh ainm cóighear chroitearan a bhi ri tagradh a rachadh a dheanamh air son meudachadh ghabhastalan. Tha'n riaghailt sin a nis air a h-atharrachadh, agus, fo'n Achd ùr, tha e dligheach do aon neach tagradh a

dheanamh air son meudachadh gabhaltais. Ma tha fearann freagarrach ri fhaighinn, agus ma shaoileas a' Chùirt gu'm bi an tuathanach comasach air a chur gu deagh bhuil, faodaidh i tuillidh gruinnd a thoirt seachad air son an gabhaltas a mheudachadh. Is urrainn dhi, ma's fheudar e, am fearann a thoirt o'n uachdaran air son an aobhair so, oil air mhath leis, —ceart mar is urrainn dhi a dheanamh a thaobh ghabhaltais ùra. A réir an t-seann Achd, b'e a mhàin fearann a bha crìochnachadh ris a' gabhaltas a ghabhadh toirt seachad air son meudachaidh. Tha a' chùis mar sin fhathas a thaobh fearann-àiteachaidh, ach gabhaidh fearann-ionaltraidh toirt seachad ged a bhios e astar air falbh o'n ghabhaltas. Tha an t-ullachadh so reusant agus freagarrach.

Chan eil an t-Achd ùr a' gabhail gnothaich ri tuathanaich bheaga aig am bheil aontachan fhathasd gun ruith. Tha e a' roinn nan tuathach beaga eile 'nan dà earrainn. Do'n cheud earrainn, buinidh iadsan a tha 'nan croitearan a réir Achd 1886, agus iadsan a tha'n seilbh air fearann far nach d' rinn an t-uachdaran móran cuideachaidh an rathad togail thaighean no mathachadh a dheanamh air an ghabhaltas, ach far an d' rinneadh na nithe sin leis an tuathanach féin no leothasan a bha 'san t-seilbh air thoiseach air agus de'n aon teaghlach. Tha'n dara earrann a' gabhail a staigh iadsan a tha'n seilbh air fearann far an d' rinn an t-uachdaran gach togail is mathachadh. Tha'n seann chroitear anns a' cheart suidheachadh fo'n Achd ùr san robh e fo'n t-seann Achd. Cha ghabh e cur am mach às a ghabhaltas cho fad sa choimhlionas e cùmhnantan sònruichte.



Feumaidh e a mhàl a phàigheadh gu riaghailteach, a chuid thaighean a ghleidheadh an deagh dhòigh, agus a' chuid gruinnid a chumail an sùgh agus an dealbh. Faodaidh e fios a chuir air Cùirt an Fhearainn a chum is gu'm bi màl cothromach air a shuidh-eachadh air son a chuid gabhaltais, agus faodaidh e a' Chùirt fhaighinn uair anns na seachd bliadhna a chum sealltainn thairis air a' mhàl. Tha sochair de'n t-seorsa cheudna aig an uachdaran. Tha e ceadaichte dhàsan iarraidh air a' Chùirt, uair anns na seachd bliadhna, tighinn a chum màil a shocrachadh às ùr. Chan eil mathachadh no leasachadh sam bith a rinn an tuathanach air an fhearann ri ghabhail a staigh an àm a bhi deanamh màil—is e sin ri ràdh, cha téid am màl àrdachadh, ged a dh' éireas do'n tuathanachas luach an fhearann a chuir am meud le a thapadh agus le a dhìchioll féin. Tha dearbh chinnt air a thoirt, mar so, do'n tuathanach shicir easgaidh gu'n sealbhaich e féin agus a chuideachd toradh an saothair. Ceart mar a dheanadh an croitear, tagraidh an tuathanach beag làn dìoladh air son mathachadh no leasachadh sam bith a ni e air a ghabhastal. An uair a bheir e suas agus a bhios e a' fàgail an àite, bidh còir aige air pàigheadh fhaighinn o'n uachdaran air son gach obair a rinn e féin, no a mhuinntir, air thoiseach air gu luach a' ghabhaltais a chuir an àird.

Tha ullachadh feumail agus ionmholt air a dheanamh an uair a tha cumhachd air a thoirt do Bhòrd an Tuathanachais iasaid airgid a thoirt seachad air son taighean-còmhnuidh no taighean eile a thogail às ùr, no seann taighean a chur air dealbh na's fheàrr na

tha iad. Tha dòchas gu'n gabhar cothrom air an ullachadh so, oir tha móran de thaighean nan croitearan nach bu mhisde idir beagan atharrachaidh agus ùrachaidh a bhi air a dheanamh orra.

A thaobh croitearan na Gàidhealtachd, tha aon rathad, co-dhiùbh, sam bheil an t-Achd ùr na's fheàrr gu mór na an seann Achd. Thuige so, cha b'urrainn do'n chroitear a chòir air a ghabhaltas a thoirt thairis d'a mhnaoi no do ghin de a theaghlach cho fad sa bhiodh e féin beo. Ged a thigeadh air seann aois, tinneas no trioblaid, dh' fheumadh e leantainn ri a chuid fearainn, no a liubhairt do'n uachdaran. Bha so a' bualadh iomadh uair glé chruaidh air a' chroitear, ach a nis tha car ùr an adharc an daimh. An dòigh no dhà eile tha cor a' chroitear dol a bhi na's fheàrr. Roimhe so cha b'urrainn e le tiomnadh a chòir seilbh fhàgail aig neach sam bith an taobh am mach de a theaghlach féin. Chan eil a' chùis mar sin a nis. Faodaidh e dileabach a deanamh de aon neach sam bith, cho fad is nach eil grunn reusant aig an uachdaran air son grabaidh. Fo'n t-seann Achd, dh' fheumadh dileabach fios a thoirt do'n uachdaran an taobh a staigh de latha-thar-fhichead co-dhiùbh a bha no nach robh e dol a ghabhail seilbh air an fhearann a bh' air fhàgail aige. Bha e air fhoillseachadh uairean gun àireamh gu'n robh an ùine so tuillidh is goirid. Tha i a nis air a sìneadh am mach gu dà mhios, agus tha so féin goirid gu leoir an iomadh càs. Roimhe so, cha b'urrainn do neach a bha giulan air aghaidh ceird no malairt bhi 'n a chroitear. Bha'n gobhainn, an saor, an marsanta agus an leithidean sin gu buileach air taobh am mach an lagha. Tha



chùis air atharrach sin a nis, agus chan eil e na's fhaide air a mheas 'na chionta do neach oidhirp a thoirt air a thighinn-a-staigh a chur am meud air dòigh sam bith nach eil chum lochd d'a choimhearsnach no d'a uachdaran.

Tha'n tuathanach do'm bheil taighean air an ullachadh leis an uachdaran air buntainn ris air atharrachadh dòigh. Tha gabhaltas seasmhach aige agus comas dol gu Cùirt an Fhearainn air son gu'm bi màl cothromach air a shocrachadh dha. Ach, chan eil gabhaltas seasmhach a' ciallachadh an t-aon nì dhàsan is a tha e 'ciallachadh d'a choimpirean a thog an taighean féin. An àite a ghabhaltas-san a bhi buan-mhaireannach, is ann a dh' fheumas e bhi air ùrachadh o àm gu àm air na cùmhnantan fo'n robh e mu'n d' rinneadh an t-Achd. Mur urrainn e còrdadh ris an uachdaran, tha e 'na mheinn iarraidh air Cùirt an Fhearainn "màl *ceart*" a shuidheachadh, agus mar an ceudna an ùine a shocrachadh a tha an gabhaltas ri bhi gun ùrachadh. Faodaidh a' Chùirt, ann a bhi suidheachadh màil, na cùmhnantan fo'm bheil an tuathanach an seilbh a ghabhail a staigh, agus am màl a dheanamh na's mò no na's lugha a réir is mar a shaoilear leatha na cùmhnantan a bhi fàbharach agus reusanta no air atharrach sin. Cuiridh so bacadh air uachdarain leis am b'àill cùmhnantan cruaidhe a leagail air an cuid thuathanach. Mur cum an t-uachdaran na taighean agus na goireasan eile an deagh òrdugh, no mur solair e idir taighean agus goireasan feumail, bidh cead aig an tuathanach iarraidh air Cùirt an Fhearainn a ghabhail a staigh am measg nan tuathanach a thog an cuid thaighean

féin, chum is gu'm bi e mealtainn gach sochair a bhuineas do'n dream sin. Is duilich a ràdh fhathasd co-dhiùbh tha ciall aig "màl *ceart*" eadar-dhealaichte o "mhàl *cothromach*." Chan fhaicear sin gus an tig cùisean fo chomhair Cùirt an t-Seisein.

Is e so am beagan fhacal suim agus brìgh an Achd ùir. Mar a thug sinn fainear, tha e toirt cumhachd seachad gu gabhaltais ùra chruthachadh, agus sin, ma's fheudar e, oil air mhath leis an uachdaran. Tha e toirt comas do Chùirt an Fhearainn tuillidh fhearainn a thoirt dhàsan aig am bheil beagan cheana, ach aig nach eil gu leoir. Tha e toirt feartan agus sochairean Achd nan Croitearan a dh' ionnsuidh gach tuathanach beag an Albainn a thog a chuid thaighean féin, no fhuair air an togail iad le a dhaimhich a bh' air thoiseach air anns a' ghabhaltas. Do thuathanaich bheaga eile, tha e toirt còir air an seilbh fhaighinn air ùrachadh, agus sin aig "màl *ceart*." Tha e solar £200,000 sa bhliadhna air son feum nan tuathanach beaga a tha a' tighinn a staigh fo'n Achd.

Chan fhaodar àicheadh nach eil oidhirp iongantach air a toirt anns an Achd gu ceist an fhearainn a réiteach agus gus an talamh fhosgladh a suas do'n t-sluagh. Chan ion teagamh a chur nach bi e 'na mheadhoin air grabadh a chur an tomhas beag no mór air a' ghluasad eugsamhuil a tha'm measg òigridh na h-Alba gu Canada agus tìrean céin eile. Ach, a thaobh nan nithean so, is e tìm a dh' innseas teist-eanas. Chan eil dhuinn ach a bhi tighinn beo an dòchas.

Cho fad sa bha'm Bill a' dol troimh Thaigh nan Cumantan, rinn na h-uachdarain, fo threorachadh



Mharcuis Thula-bhàrdain, na bha 'nan comas chum an dubh a chur air a' gheal. Cha robh innleachd nach do dheilbh iad air son a' Bhill a mhilleadh. Bha iad ag àicheadh gu dalma gu'n robh seann Achd nan Croitearan 'na mheadhoin air cor agus suidheachadh tuath na Gàidhealtachd a chur gu mòr am feabhas. An taobh am mach do Thaigh na Pàrlamaid, dh' fhalbh na h-uachdarain—agus cha chòir a dhì-chuimhneachadh—is chuir iad àireamh de luchd-fiosrachaidh am mach air son rannsachaidh a dheanamh a staigh do'n chùis. Thachair so an déigh do'n Bhill aig Pentland a bhi air a thoirt a staigh an toiseach. Cha robh aon Ghàidheal am measg a' chomuinn ud; agus, ciamar a fhuair iad an fhoirbhis a bha dhìth orra, chan urrainn sinn le cinnt innseadh. Cia air bith mar a thrus iad am fiosrachadh, thug iad a staigh iomradh a rèir dìreach mar a bha e dhìth air na h-uachdarain fhéin-spéiseil a chuir am mach iad. Thuirt iad nach d'rinn na croitearan adhart sam bith air tàilleamh an Achd a dh' ainmicheadh, agus, ma bha'n cor na b' fheàrr na bha e o cheann fhichead bliadhna gu'm faoidte a bhuidheachas sin a thoirt air lagh nan sgoiltean. Bha am modh-àitich mar a bha e o chianaibh; bha na taighean anns a' chuid mhór de àiteachan cho dona sa bha iad riamh; bha beo-shlaint a' chroitear gun mhùthadh gun atharrachadh; agus bha àireamh an t-sluaigh a sìor dhol an lughad. Bha'n fhìrinn agus a' bhreug air an amladh cho gleusda san iomradh agus gu'm bu duilich eadar-dhealachadh a chur eatorra. Faodar co-dhiùbh a ràdh, gun chainnt làidir a chleachdadh, gu'n robh tunna de'n bhréig ann mu choinneamh gach punnd

frinn. Chan eil duine sam bith a tha eolach air a' Ghàidhealtachd aig nach eil fios nach ionnan do'n dùthaich idir an diugh agus o chean chóig-bliadhna-fichead. Tha sinn a' creidsinn nach eil àite eile air uachdar an domhain air an d' thàinig uiread de mhùthadh prìseil an dùth na h-ùine. An luchd-fiosrachaidh a chuir na h-uachdarain do'n Ghàidhealtachd, cha robh annta ach Goill, agus bu duilich dhaibh foirbhis fhaighinn.

Bha gàirdeachas, gun teagamh, an Albainn an latha fhuair am Bill seula an Rìgh. Ni e feum sa Ghalldachd; ach, a thaobh Tir nam Beann, chan fhiosrach sinn gu'n dean e móran cuideachaidh sa cheud toiseach. Gun teagamh, tha e toirt seachad cumhachd gus na bailtean-móra chaorach agus na frithean a bhriseadh a sìos. Tha'n cumhachd mór gu leoir, ach, a réir a' Bhìll, chan e an fheala-dhà a chur an cleachdadh. Tha Bòrd no dhà agus Cùirt no dhà ri ruigh-eachd mu'n gabh corrag cur air clod fearainn. Bha seann Chùirt an Fhearainn mall agus màirnealach gu leoir, ach rachadh a cunntas clis agus sgiobalt an coimeas ris na cùirtean a th' air an toirt gu bith leis an Achd so. B'e trì bliadhna a bha'n t-seann Chùirt a' gabhail gu breith agus binn a thoirt am mach air cùisean a bheirte fa comhair. Cha b' iongantach leinn ged a ghabhadh na cùirtean ùra an dùblachadh tim sin, oir, tha e glé choltach nach bi iad "còmhnard 's nach gluais iad còmhla." B' fhearr a dh' oibrichheadh aon chùirt no dhà; agus is ann air dìon-iarrtas Thula-bhàrdain agus nan *Tories* eile a dh' atharraicheadh am Bill gu dà chùirt a thoirt a staigh.

Is ann air son nan Gall gu sònruichte, agus chan



iad na Gàidheil, a chaidh am Bill ùr a chruthachadh. Bha muinntir na Gàidhlig a' tagradh o cheann iomadh bliadhna air son ath-leasachadh air laghanna an fhearainn, agus, feuch, tha iad ach beag gu buileach air an dì-chuimhneachadh. Cha robh de spéirid sa Ghall na dh' iarr dad riamh, agus so dha Achd a tha coinneachadh gach uireasbhuidh a th' air! Tha'n Gàidheal an diugh air a chur an dì-meas mar a bha e o cheann nan linntean. Chan eil Pàrlamaid sam bith a' faicinn gu'm bheil feum aige-san air nì. Bho linn Agricola, cha d' fhuair e nì riamh a dheanamh air a shon le rìgh no Ard Uachdaranachd, ach a mhàin Achd nan Croitearan. So an t-aon Achd a rinneadh riamh chum feum a dheanamh dha; ach, bu lìonmhor iad na h-Achdan a rinneadh a dh' aon obair chum a mhaoin a mhilleadh, agus a spiorad àrdanach a mhùchadh agus a bhristeadh.

Thuirt Sir Dòmhnall H. MacPhàrlain, an uair a rinneadh Achd nan Croitearan, nach robh e idir a chòir cho math sa dh' fheumadh e le ceartas a bhi, gidheadh, gu'm b' fheàrr bloigh builinn na bhi gun aran. Anns an spiorad cheudna tha sinn a' fàilt-eachadh an Achd ùir mar cheum air an t-slighe tha treorachadh gu fuasgladh agus saorsa. Mur biodh fuigheall de mhath agus de éifeachd ann, cha bhiodh gach uachdaran eadar Dan agus Beersheba cho fada 'na aghaidh agus cho trang 'ga chàineadh. Chan e nach d' fhuair iad atharrachadh ach beag gu'm miann am feadh sa bha e air beulaobh na Pàrlamaid. Cha chuimhneach leinn gu'n robh aon atharrachadh a dh' iarr Marcus Thula-bhàrdain gu dìongmhalt agus gu dùrachdach nach deachaidh a dheanamh. Tha Mr.

Ure, an t-Ard Fhear-tagraidh air son na h-Alba, foghainteach, fiughanta, fearail an uair a tha e a labhairt ris an t-sluagh aig coinneamh fhollaisich ; ach tha e daonnan 'na chaora mhaoil bhàin an uair a thig e uchd ri aghaidh ris na h-uachdarain an Taigh nan Cumantan. An sin, tha e daonnan deas gu aideach gu'm bheil gach asluchadh a nì na h-uachdarain cubhaidh agus reusanta, agus gu'm bheil e féin agus a luchd-leanmhainn fada fada am mearachd. Is ann air tailleamh Mhr. Ure a bhi cho meata a tha uiread de fhàilingean san Achd. Is ann gu mòr le a choire-san a tha e nach fhaodar beantainn do'n chuid is mò de na bailtean-móra chaorach air son ghabhaltasan beaga dheanamh. Tha na ceuman troimh'm feumar dol, o chùirt gu cùirt gu ruig Cùirt an t-Seisein cho fadalach agus cho fiar is gur ann ainneamh a théid beantainn do na tuathanachais is mò. Tha duais ri thoirt do'n uachdaran air son dragh a chur air, agus, mar an ceudna, tha duais ri thoirt do'n tuathanach. Ma tha'n duais a shirear os ceann £300, tha cumhachd Cùirt an Fhearainn a sgur, agus feumar dol gu Cùirt an t-Seisein chum gu'n cuir ise fear-meas air a' chùis. Mar is mò an tuathanachas is ann is duilghe làmh a chur air a chum a briseadh a sìos ; mar is lugha e is ann is fhasa dol 'na bhad. Is e sin ceartas agus cubhaidheachd a réir Mhr. Ure.

Tha leth-bhreith agus claon-bhaigh nach beag air an nochdadh anns an dream a chaidh a thaghadh mar bhuill de Chùirt an Fhearainn agus de Bhòrd an Tuathanachais. 'Nan inbhe, 'nan tàlandan, 'nan foghlum, 'nan giulan agus 'nan caithe-beatha, chan



eil sgar air a h-aon dhiubh. Ach, tha aon nì 'nan aghaidh uile. 'Nam measg gu léir, chan eil a h-aon a chomharraich e féin riamh air son a bhàigh no a chairdis ris an t-sluagh. Tha fear is fear 'nam measg a chomharraich e fhéin air son a dheagh-ghean do na h-uachdarain. Mar eisimpleir, gabhamaid esan aig am bheil an ceud fhacal—agus glé choltach am facal deireannach—ann a bhi cruthachadh ghabhaltasan ùra agus a' meudachadh sheann ghabhaltasan. Bha esan o òige an seirbhis 'nan uachdaran, oir b'é bàillidheachd a b' obair dha riamh. A bharrachd air so, thagair e aig iomadh àm, le a pheann agus le a theangaidh, cùis nan uachdaran, agus sin gu dion agus gu comasach. Is ann air a shamhuil so de dhaoine a b'àill le Mr. Ure a bhi cur urram, agus is ann riu a b'àill leis a bhi 'g earbsa oibreachadh an Achd a chaidh a dheilbh air son an t-sluaigh a thàladh air an ais chum an fhearainn. An d' thug e cuireadh do neach sam bith aig am bheil ainm a bhi 'na charaid do'n t-sluagh gu cuideachadh a thoirt seachad gus an t-Achd a chur an cleachdadh? Cha d' thug do uiread is aon. Mur a bi leth-bhreth agus claon-bhàigh air a nochdadh leis na bòrdaibh ùra, beagan buidheachais do Mhr. Ure. Shleuchd esan e féin cho iriosal sa dh' fhaodadh e am fianuis 'nan uachdaran, agus an còrr cha b' urrainn dha a dheanamh air an son.

Ged nach ion fiughair a bhi gu'n toir an t-Achd ùr neamh nuadh no talamh nuadh do Albainn, is còir do'n t-sluagh gabhail ris gu togarrach, agus gach feum a th' ann a thoirt às. Biodh e math no dona, is e na gheibhear gu ceann iomadh latha. Mar a dh'

ainmich sinn cheana, bha sinn a' feitheamh ris o cheann chóig-bliadhna-fichead, agus is math a thachras e mur feum sinn feitheamh uiread eile de ùine air son achd is fheàrr. Tha Pàrlamaid Shasuinn tuillidh is trang air son móran aire thoirt do chùisean Albainn, agus, co-dhiùbh, is e an rud m'a dheireadh leatha a bhi smeacharanachd air an fhearann. Cha tig an latha, is cha chiar an tràth, san téid buntainn ri ceist nan ceistean an Albainn gus am faighear Pàrlamaid a shuidheachadh an Dun-éideann. Tha dòchas an uair a chì sluagh ar dùthcha Eirinn a' soirbheachadh fo tomhas reusanta de Fhéin Riaghladh gu'n iarr agus gu'n tagair iad gu treun air son na sochair agus a' chothrom cheudna. Alba air son nan Albannach !

## GLAS-LAMH NA H-EIREANN.



**AIR** am mealladh is air an dalladh leis an fhocal " Pàrlamaid," ghabh sluagh na h-Eireann gu taingeil toileach ris a' Bhill ùr a chaidh a thairgse daibh le Mr. Asquith agus a chàirdean. Am briathraibh eile, is ann a tha na h-Eireannaich an geall air faileas an nì air an robh iad cho fad an tòir a ghabhail ris, at àite an dearbh nì sin e féin.

Is tric a chuala sinn gur feàrr bloigh na builinn na bhi falamh ; agus (agus ùairean) faodaidh sin a bhi



fior. Ach, dé a thachras, no dé mar ghuileanas sinn sinn féin, mur eil anns an nì a chaidh a thairgse duinn ach spruan as an rud air am bheil sinn an tòir? Mar a thubhairt sinn anns an àireamh mu dhéir-eadh de'n *Guth*, faodaidh maraon duine is dùthaich prìs tuilleadh is àirde a phàidheadh air son na is àill leo a chosnadh. Nach feàrr a bhi falamh gu tur car tamuill na bhi breugach a thaobh nam barailean sin a tha mar cheann-fàth is mar mhàthair-aobhair d'ar beò air fad?

Bheachdaich sinn gu cùramach air a' Bhill ùr so, agus is e so an co-dhùnadh gus an d'thàinig sin, gur dearg amadan an Sasunnach sin nach gabh ris a dh' aona bheum, agus nach bi taingeil do Mhr. Asquith air a shon. Tha e cho bàidheil do Shasuinn agus is urrainn d'a leithid a bhi. Chan eil e toirt air falbh aon dad sam bith bho Shasuinn, nì mòr tha e buileachadh air Eirinn aon dad air bith is fhiach a shealbhachadh. Tha e fàgail na dùthcha sin tur lom falamh neo-mhurrach a thaobh "cumhachd an sporain," agus, barrachd air a sin, is ann a tha e ga fàgail neo-chomasach anns gach dòigh eile is idir fiach a chunntadh. Mar uiseag fo spàig seabhaig, no mar damh is buailteach do'n chasgradh, tha cor na h-Eireann an ceartuair.

—quis talia fando

Temperet à lachrymis?—

## WANTED—A BOARD OF TRADE.

**I**N publishing the following particulars relating to the domestic and foreign trade of Scotland our design is, firstly, to draw the attention of our countrymen to the commercial status of modern Scotland, and, secondly, to provide data in behalf of our plea in favour of the creation of a Scottish Board of Trade. We hope, moreover, that the publication in a Scottish periodical of the following facts and figures will be of material assistance to the discussion of Federalism, which of late has come to engage so large a share of the public attention, and which seems destined in the near future to “bulk” yet more largely in the public eye. The Home Rule question is at present too much dicussed from the point of view of pure sentiment. The historical argument has been worked *usque ad nauseam*; and it is high time that the question was thoroughly considered and discussed, not from the point of view of the sentimental Nation-alist, but from the ground provided by a cool and impartial survey of the varied sources of national wealth, and the trading capacity and possibilities of the nations which claim the right of autonomy. We have no wish to decry the sentimental-cum-historical argument in favour of Home Rule, or Federalism. So far as it goes, that argument is highly respectable; but it is a mistake to suppose



that grave Constitutional issues can now-a-days be solved without due reference to the commercial problems with which all such questions are intimately associated. Without going so far as to affirm that Home Rule and Federalism are purely commercial issues, we make no secret of our opinion that their financial aspect has been too much subordinated to pleas and considerations which arise from mere sentiment, and from an exaggerated estimate of the value (as a solvent) of the historical argument in their favour. In other words, in any discussion of the kind here glanced at, our public men—statesmen, the lesser politicians, and so forth—are much too prone to put the cart before the horse, in the sense that they commonly advertise and exploit the purely sentimental argument to the prejudice of that which should principally—if not exclusively—engage their attention : namely, the argument which is based on Finance and commercial considerations in general. The various Scottish Societies which make it their business to instruct the public on the questions of Home Rule and Federalism have undoubtedly done some good work in the past. Arguments based on sentiment, and which have historical facts to commend them, are agents in the formation of public opinion which are not lightly to be despised. Undoubtedly there was a danger that the average Scottish mind was growing rusty as regards the ideals and achievements of the nation's " Men "—of those who, in the past, laid down their lives, or otherwise distinguished themselves in the pursuit of ideals whose common ends were the national good,

and the freedom and independence of Scotland. The popular feeling in favour of Home Rule provided a fitting opportunity for the revival of much wholly or semi-forgotten historical lore. It was eminently desirable that the "rising generation"—our zealous "Young Scots" and their like—should be reminded of the nation's great dead. Respectable sentiment of this sort is not only comely in itself, but is a powerful political solvent, whose aid no statesman in his senses can afford to disregard, or manœuvre to dispense with. But, on the other hand, it is a mistake to regard it—as many of us apparently do—as all-sufficing. Trade and Finance rule the universal roost nowadays. Whether we like it or not, the question of "Will it pay?" takes precedence of all other political or semi-political questions, which rise from time to time to the public lips. With one accord, the nations seem to say, "First assure us that our account is in it, and then trust us to do the rest." Such is the prevailing attitude: almost all questions—from waging wars to pitch-and-toss, aye, even to vicarious man-slaughter—are approached nowadays from the point of view of their several financial aspects and fiscal possibilities; and hardly is there a single public question raised (however seemingly remotely situated from Bank and Counting-house) which does not, sooner or later, resolve itself into a *cause celebre*, in which the Greeks of Finance meet the Greeks of Finance, and in which the weapons used are not the slings and arrows of out-worn sentimentalists, but the steel-clad bullets of the militant Statistician, and the formidable artillery



massed behind the State's "Returns" of Imports and Exports. Under these circumstances, it is foolish to ignore the prevailing tendency—to go about to promote Home Rule; to revive the Gaelic or Scottish language; or even to rob the hen-roosts of the idle rich, as though the financial aspect of our reforming activities did not exist: as though the world were still all composed of the green cheese of the gushing sentimentalist; and Financiers, Chancellors of the Exchequer, Treasury Officials, and Statisticians were to be tolerated (rather than encouraged), not on account of any intrinsic merit in themselves, or in their opinions, but because a dash of figures and a *soupeçon* of finance serve to impart variety, and a semblance of respectability, to a public cause. Fortunately, this aspect of the matter does not command general approval, even in those quarters which we have been wont prominently to associate with the claims and clamours of sentimentalism, pure and unrestrained. For instance, the *Sinn Féin* party in Ireland is fully alive to the fact that Finance lies at the root of the Irish problem; and its seasonable insistence on this truth is slowly but surely teaching the Irish nation the much-needed lesson that autonomy, without full financial control, is scarce worth the having. "We prefer to be as we are (says a recent issue of the official organ of the *Sinn Féin* party), powerless and irresponsible, than powerless and yet responsible. We know that under any measure called Home Rule, Nationalist Ireland will be on its trial before Unionist Ireland; and all Ireland will be on its trial before the world. If the

measure does not give us Home Rule power in reality, as well as in name, we shall be cast in that trial. None but the foolish will accept the responsibility of government where the powers of government are withheld. She (Ireland) has made the demand for financial control because she has been educated into the knowledge that, without fiscal control, Home Rule will impose upon her responsibility without power."

Another reason why, at the present conjuncture, we are desirous to emphasise the supreme importance of the following facts and figures is that, with the opening of the Panama Canal, a few years hence, our national oversea trade is certain to go up by leaps and bounds. The Argentine Republic, and South America generally, are already good customers of ours ; but, once the Panama Canal is constructed, it would be difficult to assign the limits to which that trade might attain. If the importance of a country is to be judged solely from the increase of material wealth, and the expansion of its commerce, then there is, perhaps, no State at the present time which is so much to be regarded as the Argentine. In a book, entitled *Estudio sobre el Comercio Argentino con las Naciones Limitrofes*, by Ricardo Pillado, the statistics given are so startling as to read like a fairy tale. Thus we find that in the frozen and chilled beef business in the year 1900, the Republic exported 24,950 tons ; the United States, 149,204 tons ; and Australia, 43,624 tons. At the conclusion of a decade—that is to say, in 1909—the figures are :—Argentina, 210,657 tons ; United States, 55,746 tons ; Australia,

30,891 tons. From these figures we see that, in one of the most important of all trades in the 20th century, Argentina has so far out-distanced all rivalry as to have captured almost the entire market. Nor is this by any means her only achievement, as she stands an easy second to the United States in the matter of commerce generally in the two Americas, Canada and Brazil coming in a considerable way behind as third and fourth respectively. Again, the statistics published in the October (1911) Bulletin of the Pan-American Union, surveying the foreign trade of Latin America in 1910, are eloquent of the vast producing power of these new countries. The exports of the Argentine Republic last year, consisting almost entirely of live and dead meat, grain, tallow, wool, and hides, showed an average *per capita* value two-and-a-half times as great as that of the United States. The rate of progress in development that has taken place throughout all the Latin Republics, since the Spanish-American War, may be gauged by the fact that their exports have nearly trebled in value, the total in 1910 amounting to over 250 millions sterling. Every year shows large balances of trade in their favour, and against Europe. In the process of supplying Europe with the necessities of life, South America, obtaining these staples at half the price which they cost to other producing countries, is rapidly building up its own wealth and capital, and developing its purchasing power to an extent already widely felt in the commercial world. The rate at which that purchasing power is increasing averages over ten per cent. per annum for the twenty Re-



publics ; in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil it is far higher. No doubt much of this marvellous expansion has been achieved at the expense of trading Europe ; and whilst there is truth in the remark that everything points to a future in which Europe must depend more and more upon the products of South America—paying for these products in the eventual transfer of some considerable portion of its present commercial and financial supremacy to the heirs of Spain's great heritage overseas—yet it is easy to understand that the expansion of South America also implies and involves the expansion of the trade of those countries with which she transacts her business. If we compare the conditions of life in the world of to-day with those which obtained even a hundred years ago, no feature stands out in such striking contrast with the past as the close economic interdependence of modern nations, as the result of general trade expansion. With the development of swift communication between all parts of the globe, and of unlimited and cheap facilities for transport of commodities in bulk, the days have passed in which nations sufficed and provided of necessity for themselves, living practically on their own resources. By many inventions of science, of steam and electricity, by the intricacies of finance, commercial credit and world-spread investments of capital, not only the financial but the economic resources of the greatest part of the world have become, to all intents and purposes, internationalised. No longer can it be said that one half of the world does not know how the other half lives, or dies ; not only does

it know, but it must know ; for the knowledge directly concerns, and affects, its own daily bread. It is evident, therefore, that if we wish our trade to expand and prosper, it is essential that it should have individual attention, as it were—that, in other words, it should be carefully fostered and looked after by the State ; by the people to whom it belongs, and who exist by it, that is to say. If this State attention and advancement of trade were not a matter of the first importance, doubtless we should not have the now familiar spectacle afforded us of great nations doing their utmost to extend and foster their trade, and to increase the vulgar knowledge of its circumstances and requirements through the channel of the governmental machinery which has been called into existence for that very purpose. Without doubt, it were a mistake to regard the multiplication of Boards, and so forth, as in itself providing a kind of automatic panacea for all the ills and defects to which the modern trading State is heir. If the mere erection of governmental machinery were all sufficient to ensure prosperity and efficiency, then modern Ireland would be the most prosperous and progressive country in all Christendom. There is no country in the world in which the proportion of bureaucrats to population is higher than it is in Ireland—yet, alas, how little of contentment and efficiency—not to mention prosperity—there is to be observed in respect of the politico-commercial status of that Kingdom.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that “ individual attention ” of the kind for which we are

here pleading is of the first importance to a nation—provided, of course, that such bureaucratic administration is free from what the Americans call “graft,” and other objectionable features which make for inefficiency, and corrupt and inept conduct. The recent creation of a Board of Agriculture for Scotland is a step in the right direction. We Scots have the reputation of being able to manage our own affairs—to say nothing of our attributed capacity of being competent successfully to “run” those of other peoples. The multiplication in Scotland, therefore, of the powers and instruments and the signs and symbols of autonomy is much to be approved by every sensible and patriotic Scot. Our country may safely be trusted to extract the utmost possible material benefit out of such administrative opportunities as she may succeed in acquiring for herself; and in as much as such multiplication of the instruments and appliances of autonomy acts as a useful stimulant to national endeavour, besides serving to pave the way for the inevitable grant of full legislative powers, it is evident that the more the *interregnum* is favoured in this respect, the more is our country likely to be benefited, and the stronger will grow the national feeling in favour of full and complete legislative independence. With a population of over 4,000,000, the average *per capita* value of Scotland’s external trade is about £63, which places our country easily at the head of the trading nations of the world. The total external trade of Ireland averages about £27 10s per head; whilst the total external trade of England, including the annual value of her trade



with Scotland and Ireland, cannot well exceed £40 per head. The external trade of Holland works out at about £71 per head ; that of Belgium at £35 per head ; and Switzerland at £30 per head. But in all these cases the returns are augmented to a great extent by the hinterland trade which these countries enjoy. The nearest approach to the Scottish average, under parallel conditions, is furnished by the case of New Zealand, with an average of £31 per head. That Scotland should, in the circumstances in which she now is placed, have attained to this position speaks well for the industry and enterprise of her people. But with emigration rapidly draining her resources, largely in consequence of her want of legislative powers ; with a falling birth-rate ; and with the uprising of powerful trade rivals, fully equipped with all the latest machinery of the modern trading State, Scotland, a trading nation, indeed requires to look well to her laurels. A policy of *laissez faire* as regards the management of her national trade will no longer serve her turn. She requires, and deserves, as free a hand in this respect as any of her modern trading compeers enjoys. We believe that the creation of a Scottish Board of Trade would do much to foster and expand our home and overseas trade ; and we call upon our countrymen in and out of the Parliament at Westminster to put their shoulders to the wheel, with a view to the speedy obtaining of this necessary concession—an institution without which no modern trading State can justly be considered as even approximately complete.

It is not possible within our present limits to give a detailed history of the wonderful development of the manufacturing industries of Scotland. Formerly very considerable, especially under the Alexanders, the foreign trade of Scotland shrank enormously in consequence of the economic pressure of the War of Independence. As late as the middle of the seventeenth century, Scotland's mercantile marine comprised only 90 odd vessels, with an aggregate of 2,724 tons. The trade with Holland and the Baltic States began to expand during the reign of Charles II. The commercial energies of the nation began to be awakened at the time of the Darien Affair, and shortly after, when the trade of the American and West Indian Plantations was for the first time opened to the enterprise of the Scots ; but for a considerable period after the legislative Union of 1707, Scotland made little or no progress in manufactures ; and it was not until after the Peace of Paris in 1763 that public enterprise was really turned into this great channel. Scotland is now one of the principal manufacturing countries of the world, and the magnitude of her existing principal industries may be gathered from the following table, which contains a summary of the returns received under the Census of Production Act of 1906, so far as they relate to Scotland :—

Industry.	Total value of output of work done.	No. of persons employed.
	£	
Mines (including shale oil works),	21,173,000	121,881
Iron and steel factories, ... ..	19,586,000	51,960
Jute, linen, and hemp, ... ..	16,187,000	69,602
Engineering factories, ... ..	15,992,000	63,766
Shipbuilding and marine engineering,	15,197,000	64,824
Building and contracting works, ...	10,652,000	64,977
Bread and biscuit workshops, ...	8,548,000	23,913
Woollen and worsted factories, ...	6,072,000	27,192
Clothing, handkerchief, and millinery	5,950,000	51,594
Grain milling factories, ... ..	4,365,000	2,788
Timber factories and workshops, ...	3,679,000	13,427
Brewing and malting factories, ...	3,605,000	5,188
Paper-making factories, ... ..	3,599,000	11,358
Railway construction, repairs, and maintenance, ... ..	3,410,000	23,943
Gas undertakings, ... ..	2,758,000	7,084
Printing and bookbinding, ... ..	2,780,000	21,830
Bleaching, dyeing, and printing, ...	2,811,000	18,873
Sugar and Glucose, ... ..	2,543,000	1,183
Spirit distilling, ... ..	2,546,000	3,145
Cotton factories, ... ..	2,492,000	14,332
Fish-curing, ... ..	2,277,000	17,217
Wrought iron and steel tube factories,	2,217,000	6,192
Leather factories, ... ..	1,950,000	2,413
Cocoa, confectionery, and fruit pre- serving, ... ..	1,853,000	6,806
Chemicals, ... ..	1,704,000	3,520
Local authorities, ... ..	1,616,000	15,445
Bottling factories, etc., ... ..	1,502,000	2,199
Factories engaged in the printing and publishing of newspapers, ...	1,440,000	4,925
Furniture, etc., ... ..	1,419,000	10,723
Bacon curing factories, ... ..	1,209,000	1,049
Boot and Shoe factories, ... ..	1,240,000	7,990
Railway carriage and wagon building,	1,176,000	3,351
Laundry and cleaning and dying,	1,119,000	14,345
Seed crushing factories, ... ..	1,097,000	684
Oil factories, ... ..	1,063,000	844
Lace factories, ... ..	1,048,000	4,304
Miscellaneous, ... ..	30,125,000	120,133
Total, ... ..	208,000,000	885,000



The figures contained in the foregoing tables show not only the magnitude and great diversity of the manufacturing industries of our country, but their comparative importance in relation to the manufacturing industries of the Triple Monarchy. The gross output of Scotland was £208,000,000, or 11.8 per cent. of the total for the United Kingdoms, and more than three times the value of the output of Ireland. The net output of Scottish industries was £87,000,000, or 12.2 per cent. of the aggregate for the Triple Monarchy, and nearly four times the value of the net output of Ireland.\*

It is not possible to give a full account of the development of banking in Scotland since the establishment of the Bank of Scotland in 1695 ; but a few figures may be quoted to show the present banking resources, and the wealth of the kingdom, and the extent to which they have grown within the last seventy years. In 1840, the deposits in the Scottish banks were estimated to amount to £27,000,000. At the end of 1910, the deposits in the joint stock banks amounted to £106,650,000. This compared with £776,650,000. deposits in the banks of England and Wales, and £62,508,000. in the Irish banks. Scotland, therefore, controls about 11 per cent. of the banking resources of the United Kingdoms. The amount due to depositors in Post Office savings banks and trustees savings banks in Scotland at the end of

\* For most of the facts and figures illustrating this paper, we are indebted to Mr. Edgar Crammond's treatise on the "Economic position of Scotland, and her financial relations with England and Ireland," published in the *Journal* of the Royal Statistical Society, for January, 1912.

1910 was £26,158,000., as compared with £17,360,000. at the end of 1896. In fifteen years, therefore, these deposits have increased to the extent of £8,798,000, or upwards of 50 per cent.

The railways of Scotland have also played a notable part in her commercial development. In 1857 the mileage of the railways of Scotland was 1,243, and the gross receipts amounted to £2,501,000. At the end of 1910 the mileage opened for traffic was 3,838; the paid-up capital, less nominal additions, was £136,400,000; and the average rate of dividend paid on the nominal paid-up capital of £185,500,000 was 3 per cent. The gross receipts for 1910 amounted to £13,104,000, the working expenses to £7,386,000, and the net revenue to £5,718,000. In the past fifteen years the gross receipts of the railways of Scotland increased to the extent of £3,049,000, or 30.3 per cent. During the same period the gross earnings of the railways of England and Wales increased from £76,584,000 to £106,347,000, an expansion of £29,763,000 or 38.8 per cent., which would appear to indicate that during the period named the growth of traffic on the Scottish railways did not keep pace with that on the English and Welsh lines. It must be remembered, however, that about two-thirds of the external trade of Scotland is carried by sea.

The imports into Scottish ports in 1910 were valued at £43,580,000 and the exports at £45,048,000, leaving an apparent excess of exports to the extent of £1,468,000. The external commerce of Scotland is, however, far greater than these returns would appear

to indicate, because a very considerable amount of foreign produce and manufactures is imported through English ports, while vast quantities of Scottish products are exported through the same channels, and do not appear in the Board of Trade returns, so far as they relate to Scotland. In order to obtain a true appreciation of the commerce of Scotland it is necessary to examine the figures relating to the coastwise trade. From the Statement of the Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdoms for 1910, it appears that the tonnage of the coastwise shipping which entered Scottish ports during that year was 8,771,000 tons, and the shipping cleared from Scottish ports was 8,288,000 tons.

No official figures are available as to the value of the coastwise shipping trade of Scotland ; but we know from official returns that the value of the coastwise trade of Ireland works out at an average of nearly £8 per ton for shipping entered and cleared. Adopting the same valuation for the coastwise tonnage of Scotland, we arrive at an aggregate of £136,500,000, as representing the value of her coastwise trade. Adding this amount to the value of her foreign trade, we get the total of £225,000,000 as representing the value of the seaborne trade of Scotland in 1910. It is impossible to form an exact valuation of the total external trade of Scotland, because there is no satisfactory method of calculating the value of her import and export trade with England, which is carried by means of the railways. The external trade of Ireland in 1909 was valued at over £125,000,000, and, having regard to all the cir-



cumstances, it would perhaps be a moderate estimate to assume that the value of the external trade of Scotland is nearly two-and-a-half times that amount, namely, £300,000,000 per annum.

It will be impracticable to formulate a satisfactory estimate of the trade balance of Scotland until official records are kept of the annual trade of her coastwise imports and exports, and also of the value of the imports and exports carried by means of the railways ; but unquestionably Scotland possesses a large credit balance, and in all probability she is, in proportion to her population, after England the largest creditor country in the world.

The gross income of Scotland brought under the review of the Department of Inland Revenue in the year of 1909-10 was £93,020,031, or 9.2 per cent. of the aggregate gross income of the United Kingdoms. For the year 1908-09, the gross assessment for Scotland was £96,204,055, so that there has been a somewhat marked set-back during the short period referred to. In the case of England, there was an increase of £3,893,638 ; and in the case of Ireland, an increase of £454,805 within the same short period. The comparatively large decrease in the case of Scotland is, therefore, worthy of notice. Further evidence, which points to the conclusion that Scotland is not increasing her income at such a rapid rate as England and Ireland is afforded by a comparison of the gross amount of income derived from business concerns, professions, and employments under Schedule D. During the ten years ended March 31, 1910, there was an increase for the United Kingdoms

of £92,415,000, which was distributed as follows :—

	Increase,	Per cent.
	£	
England, ... ..	81,802,000	20.2
Scotland, ... ..	6,768,000	13.9
Ireland, ... ..	3,845,021	30.4

Here again, it will be observed that Scotland's rate of expansion was much less rapid than that of England, and less than half as great as that of Ireland.

In order to arrive at an estimate of the national income of Scotland we must take into account not only the annual value of her manufacturing and agricultural industries, but also the income she derives from her shipping and from her investments abroad. There are other credit items, such as the remittance home of the earnings of Scotsmen employed outside the Kingdom, and the earnings of her tourist traffic ; but as there are no reasonable bases upon which to estimate these two items they meantime must be ignored, besides they are to some extent set off by the expenditure of Scottish tourists outside the Kingdom. As stated above, the net output of the manufacturing industries of Scotland in the year 1907, which came within the scope of the Census of Production Act, 1906, was £87,000,000. But these returns, so far as they related to Scotland, only covered 885,000 workers, whereas the total number of occupied persons in Scotland is considerably more than double that number. At the Census of 1901 the total number of persons aged 10 years and upwards who were engaged in occupations was 1,983,000. The agricultural industry occupies about

150,000 people, and the annual output may be estimated at about £18,000,000. The remaining 1,000,000 persons are in all probability of the small shopkeeper or domestic type, or youths, and it would perhaps be a fair estimate to assume their income to work out at an average of £30 per head, say £30,000,000.

The aggregate gross tonnage of shipping registered at Scottish ports at the end of 1909 was 4,317,000 tons (steamships 3,925,000 tons; sailing vessels 392,000 tons), or 23 per cent. of the total tonnage of the United Kingdoms; and taking the low average of £6 per ton for steamships and £1 per ton for sailing vessels, as representing the gross income, we arrive at the aggregate of £24,000,000. Then, as to the income from Scottish capital invested outside the Kingdom, the total annual income of the United Kingdoms from investments abroad may now be estimated at £180,000,000 per annum. The assessments to income tax in Scotland work out at 9.2 per cent. of the total assessments for the United Kingdoms, and there are grounds which justify the assumption that Scotland's share of the total income from investments abroad is not less than 8 per cent., say £14,500,000. Summarising the conclusions arrived at above, it may be said that the national income of Scotland is about £173,500,000 per annum, made up as follows :—

Net output in returns made under Census of Pro-					
duction Act, 1907,	...	...	...	...	£87,000,000
Estimated value of agricultural production,	...				18,000,000
Estimated income of persons not included in the two					
foregoing groups,	...	...	...	...	30,000,000



Estimated income from shipping, ... ..	£24,000,000
Estimated income from investments abroad, ...	14,500,000
Total, ... ..	<u>£173,500,000</u>

This total works out at an average of £36 per head, or nearly twice the amount of the estimated average income per head of the population of Ireland. It also compares with an estimated average income of £48 per head in the case of England. The people of Scotland may, therefore, be said to possess twice the average income of the Irish people, and about three-fourths of the average income of the people of England.

From national income we naturally turn to national wealth, and it is interesting to note that in 1798 Dr. Beeke estimated the national wealth of Scotland at £120,000,000, or about one-eighth of the total wealth of Great Britain, namely, £995,000,000. In order to arrive at a satisfactory estimate of the national wealth of Scotland at the present time it will perhaps be best to adopt the method by which the late Sir Robert Giffen estimated the national wealth of the Triple Monarchy in 1885, namely, to take the income returned for assessment to the income tax, capitalise the different portions of the income derived from capital at so many years' purchase, and then make an estimate for other property which did not come within the sweep of the income tax net. Applying this method to the income assessed to income tax in Scotland for the year to March 31, 1910, as set out in the fifty-fourth report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Inland Revenue, we arrive at the following result :—

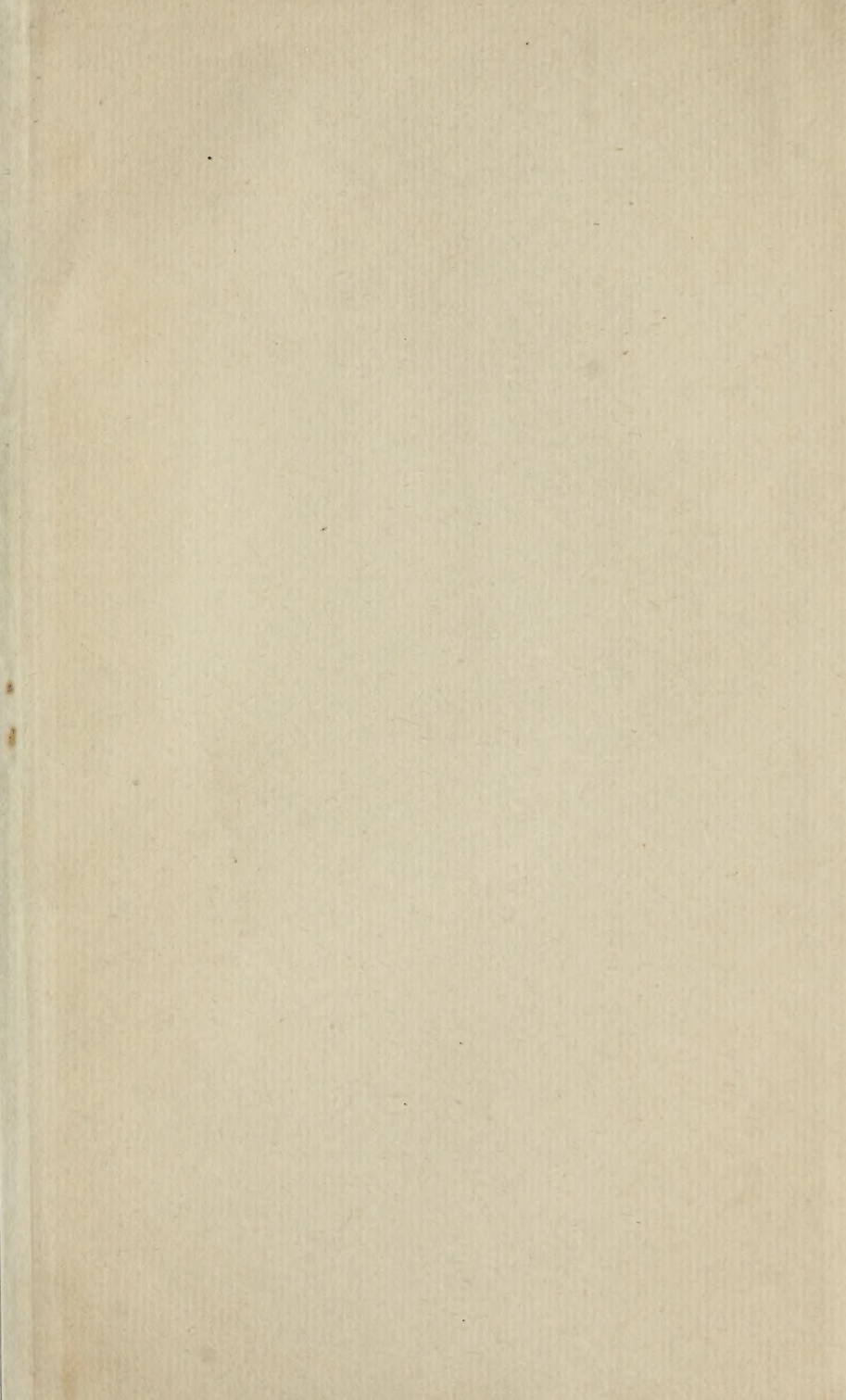
	Income year to March 31, 1911.	Number of years' purchase.	Capital.
Under Schedule A—	£		£
Lands, ... ..	5,775,000	25	144,375,000
Houses, ... ..	20,573,000	15	308,575,000
Other profits, ... ..	408,000	25	12,200,000
Schedule B—			
Farmers' profits, ... ..	1,934,000	8	15,472,000
Schedule C—			
Public Funds less Home Funds (8 per cent. of total for United Kingdoms), ... ..	2,720,000	25	68,000,000
Under Schedule D—			
Quarries, ... ..	119,000	4	476,000
Mines, ... ..	2,273,000	4	9,092,000
Ironworks, ... ..	1,270,000	4	5,080,000
Gasworks, ... ..	400,000	20	8,000,000
Waterworks, ... ..	426,000	20	8,520,000
Canals, docks, etc., ... ..	508,000	20	10,160,000
Fishings, ... ..	107,000	20	2,140,000
Market tolls, etc., ... ..	35,000	20	700,000
Other public companies, ... ..	20,703,000	15	310,545,000
Foreign and colonial securities and coupons, ... ..	1,590,000	20	31,800,000
Railways in United Kingdoms,	5,265,000	25	131,265,000
„ out of United Kingdoms,	54,000	20	1,080,000
Interest paid out of rates, ... ..	774,000	25	19,350,000
Other interest, ... ..	368,000	20	7,360,000
Other profits, ... ..	125,000	20	2,500,000
Trades and professions one-fifth of total income of £21,355,000	4,271,000	15	64,065,000
Total under income tax,	—	—	1,161,115,000
Trades and professions omitted 20 per cent. of amount assessed, or £4,271,000 of which one- fifth is ... ..	854,000	15	12,810,000
Income of non-income tax paying classes derived from capital, ... ..	3,500,000	5	90,000,000
Foreign investments not in Schedules C and D, ... ..	9,000,000	10	90,000,000
Movable property not yielding in- come, e.g., furniture of houses, works of art, etc., ... ..	—	—	110,000,000
Government and local property, say, ... ..	—	—	60,000,000
Total, ... ..	—	—	1,451,625,000

It will be observed that in working out the number of years purchase, departures have been made in certain cases from the number of years' purchase which were adopted by Sir Robert Giffen in 1885, but where such variations have been made they will be found to be in keeping with alterations which have occurred in the market rate of interest since that date.

The national wealth of Scotland may therefore be estimated at £1,451,625,000, or £305 per head. This compares with an aggregate of £13,817,375,000, or £383 per head, in the case of England and Wales, and £700,000,000, or £160 per head in the case of Ireland ; so that Scotland may be said to contain, approximately, .19 per cent. of the national wealth of the United Kingdoms.

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